

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

FEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

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P R 072050Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7365

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05991

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF DLBLIN EC SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: QUAI EXPECTS SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ON
BRITISH RENEGOTIATION ITEM AT DUBLIN EC SUMMIT. WE
BELIEVE GISCARD IS PREPARED TO GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO
ACCOMMODATE UK "NEEDS." END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH US MARCH 6, DUFOURCQ (QUAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE) DESCRIBED FRENCH
PERCEPTION OF LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AT DUBLIN EC SUMMIT
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MEETING MARCH 10-11. MANY OF THE SUBJECTS HE MENTIONED

HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED BY OTHER POSTS. THIS CABLE FOCUSES ONLY ON ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO FRENCH.

3. UK RENEGOTIATION: DUFOURCQ SAID THIS WOULD BE THE KEY ISSUE AT DUBLIN. HE PREDICTED THAT A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE CONCERNING THE BUDGET QUESTION WOULD BE CONCLUDED BY THE END OF THE SUMMIT. HE REPEATED ARGUMENTS WE HAVE HEARD EARLIER (PARIS 2612 NOTAL) CONCERNING PRACTICAL LIMIT TO FRANCE'S FLEXIBILITY ON THIS AND OTHER RENEGOTIATION ISSUES, AND HE GRUMBLED ABOUT RECENT UK INSERTION OF NEW ZEALAND DAIRY ISSUE INTO RENEGOTIATION PACKAGE. NONETHELESS, HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT GISCARD WOULD --IN THE END -- GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO MEET UK NEEDS. HE UNDERLINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH WILL CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE BRITISH SUBSTANTIVE WHITE PAPER CONCERNING THE REFERENDUM, LOOKING FOR ASSURANCES THAT WILSON WILL ENGAGE HIS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE PRO-MARKET FORCES. IN AN ASIDE, DUFOURCQ SAID HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT SUBSTANTIVE WHITE PAPER WOULD PRODUCE UNEQUIVOCAL EVIDENCE OF WILSON'S PRO-MARKET COMMITMENT.

4. ENERGY: DUFOURCQ THOUGHT THAT ENERGY WOULD BE THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM, AND THAT EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE RESULTS OF THE OPEC SUMMIT AMONG OTHER THINGS.

5. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS: EC INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, WHICH PROVIDE A MAJOR FOCAL POINT FOR DECEMBER EC SUMMIT IN PARIS, ARE NOT LIKELY TO SEE SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN DUBLIN. FRENCH HAVE NOTHING NEW TO SAY AT THIS TIME CONCERNING FURTHER INITIATIVES. MOREOVER ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH "PROGRESS" THAT HAS BEEN REGISTERED ON THEIR THREE DECEMBER INITIATIVES:

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IDEA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE EC. THE FRENCH WILL WATCH THE WAY DUBLIN SUMMIT IS HANDLED WITH A VIEW TO INSURING THAT IT FOLLOWS THE DECEMBER PATTERN

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7366

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05991

OF INFORMALITY AND RELATIVELY SMALL SIZE MEET-
INGS.

-- THE VOTING REFORM PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH IN
DECEMBER SEEMS TO BE GENERALLY A DORMANT ISSUE,
AT LEAST UNTIL THE UK RENEGOTIATION SUBJECT IS
OUT OF THE WAY. THE FRENCH ARE NOT PUSHING
THIS IDEA AND WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE
ELSE IS APPLYING PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY MOVE TO
BROADER MAJORITY VOTING WITHIN THE EC. IN DIS-
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CUSSING THIS FRENCH INITIATIVE, DUFOURCQ UNDER-

LINED THAT FRANCE HAS NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE: FRANCE WILL ALWAYS EXPECT MAJORITY VOTING ON KEY POLICY ISSUES.

-- CONCERNING DIRECT ELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENT, THE FRENCH SEE THE BALL BOUNCING IN THE EC PARLIAMENT'S COURT, AND THEY ARE CONTENT TO AWAIT ACTION FROM THAT SIDE.

6. COMMENT: BASED ON THIS AND EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH DUFOURCQ, AND OUR PERCEPTION OF GISCARD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE, WE EXPECT THAT GISCARD WILL MAKE AN EFFORT AT DUBLIN TO ACCOMMODATE UK "NEEDS" ON EC RENEGOTIATION FORMULA. IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED WHICH SEEMS TO REFLECT SOME FRENCH RETREAT, WE BELIEVE GISCARD CAN HANDLE ANY RESULTING GAULLIST COMPLAINTS. HOWEVER, IF UK "NEEDS" APPEAR UNREASONABLE TO GISCARD, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAY LEAVE DUBLIN WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE.
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